

# Catawba County Emergency Medical Services Standard Operating Guidelines

## Inter-facility Air Transport

These guidelines will explain Catawba County EMS Response for inter- facility air transports.

Catawba County EMS will respond to the Hickory Airport (or other designated facility if applicable) for the purpose of transporting awaiting flight crews to transferring facilities. This is to enable aid those flight crews to receive report from a transferring facility and to utilize their equipment for patient care during transport back to the aircraft.

Catawba County EMS will transport flight crews and patients back to the aircraft from the transferring facility. Flight crew personnel will be responsible for patient care although EMS personnel may assist with patient care if requested by the flight crew.

There may be instances where it is in the best interest of the patient to expedite this process. Catawba County EMS may transport the patient directly from the transferring facility to the aircraft without picking up the flight crew.

These responses will be done by **physician order only** and after the following considerations are made:

- The capabilities or limitations of the Catawba County EMS in managing multiple IV drips and pumps, ventilators, and patient monitoring devices.
- All parties (EMS, physician, flight crew) should consider the logistics and time involved in switching from hospital equipment to Catawba County EMS and then back to equipment utilized by the receiving aircraft.
- Examples of this may be:
  - Stable patients with only one IV.
  - Unstable patients who are in an emergent, time-critical situation wherein any delay in arriving at the receiving facility may cause increased morbidity or mortality. (Only with the approval of the EMS Manager or designee.)
  - **The aircraft must be on the ground and prepared for transport before the EMS crew responds from the hospital to the aircraft.**

### Billing information

- Transports of patients from transferring hospitals to awaiting aircraft should be charged to the patient and listed as a code 150.
- Transports of flight crews from an awaiting aircraft to the hospital and back to the awaiting aircraft should be charged as 150 and billed to the flight service.

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